

determining a period of prepaid service for the identified subscriber account;
monitoring the period of prepaid service at the prepaid local telephone call database independently of a duration of any prepaid telephone call made during the period of prepaid service; and
sending termination date information to the subscriber prior to an expiration of the period of prepaid service, wherein the expiration of the period of prepaid service is unrelated to a duration of individual subscriber telephone calls made during the period of prepaid service.

8. (Three times amended) In communication with a telephone network having at least one local exchange carrier in communication with at least one subscriber, a system for providing prepaid local telephone services comprising:

Q2 a prepaid local telephone call service center in communication with the at least one local exchange carrier, the prepaid local telephone service call service center comprising:

an applications server having a processor and a prepaid subscriber database, the prepaid subscriber database comprising subscriber prepaid service period information and subscriber identification information, the applications server further comprising means for monitoring a subscriber prepaid service period without monitoring a duration of individual telephone calls during the subscriber prepaid service period and without monitoring a dollar value of individual telephone calls during the subscriber prepaid service period and means for automatically communicating service termination date information to a subscriber prior to an expiration of the subscriber prepaid service period.

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Cont. 14. (Three times amended) A method of providing prepaid local telephone services to a subscriber having a telecommunications device connected to a subscriber line and in communication with a telephone network via the subscriber line, the method comprising:

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establishing a prepaid subscriber account on a prepaid local telephone service database, the prepaid subscriber account comprising subscriber identification information and a period of prepaid service;

monitoring the period of prepaid service for the prepaid subscriber account at the prepaid local telephone service database independently of a duration and a dollar value of a prepaid subscriber telephone call; and

sending service termination information to the subscriber prior to an expiration of the period of prepaid service.

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16. (Twice amended) A method of providing prepaid local telephone services to a subscriber having a telecommunications device connected to a subscriber line and in communication with a telephone network via the subscriber line, the method comprising:

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establishing a prepaid subscriber account on a prepaid local telephone service database, the prepaid subscriber account comprising subscriber identification information and a period of prepaid service;

monitoring the period of prepaid service for the prepaid subscriber account at the prepaid local telephone service database without monitoring a duration of individual prepaid telephone calls and without monitoring a dollar value of individual prepaid telephone calls;

sending a reminder message to the prepaid subscriber prior to an expiration of the period of prepaid service; and

sending a suspend message to the telephone network, the suspend message comprising an instruction to suspend local telephone service for the subscriber and to place the prepaid subscriber account on hold, wherein the prepaid subscriber account is maintained in an inactive state.
